

**Amendments to the Specification:**

On page 3 of the specification please, make the following changes:

At lines 16 – 17: FIG. 4 depicts a block diagram of an input port in accordance with the SONET/SDH switch depicted in FIG. ~~[[4]]~~ 3.

At line 20: FIG. 6 depicts a flowchart of the subtasks associated with task ~~503~~ 502, as depicted in FIG. 5.